

In the claims:

Cancel claims 20 - 26 without estoppel or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. The status of remaining claims is set forth as follows.

1. (Allowed) A communications system comprising:

a network;

a plurality of applications connected to said network, each of said applications handling a different type of communication and storing information concerning incoming communications directed to users of said communications system; and

at least one computer connected to said network and receiving said incoming communications information from selected applications, said at least one computer including a display and a processor executing a view application, said view application processing said incoming communications information and generating a three-dimensional representation thereof for presentation on said display, wherein said three-dimensional representation is a graphical representation including first, second and third generally orthogonal axes, said first axis denoting different types of incoming communications, said second axis denoting numbers of incoming communications and said third axis denoting categories of incoming communications within said different types, objects representing different types and categories of incoming communications appearing on said graphical representation,

wherein at least one of said incoming communications is categorized along said third axis based on whether the at least one of the incoming communications originated internally or externally.

2.-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Allowed) A communications system according to claim 1 wherein the sizes of said objects represent the numbers of incoming communications.

5. (Allowed) A communications system according to claim 4 wherein said objects appear on said graphical representation at spaced locations.

6. (Allowed) A communications system according to claim 1 wherein said first axis is an x-axis, said second axis is a y-axis and said third axis is a z-axis, each object being in the form of a rectangle and including an associated numerical value indicating the number of incoming communications said object represents.

7. (Allowed) A communications system according to claim 6 wherein at least some of said objects are subdivided to categorize incoming communications into read and unread incoming communications.

8.-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Allowed) A communications system according to claim 28 wherein said view application is linked to at least one of an e-mail, facsimile and Internet

application on said at least one computer, objects representing different types of incoming communications corresponding to said at least one of the e-mail, facsimile and Internet application being selectable to invoke the at least one application.

11. (Allowed) A communications system according to claim 10 wherein each of said applications is run on a server connected to said network, each server also running an applications program interface to act between said application and said view application.

12. (Allowed) A communications system according to claim 11 wherein said view application uses remote procedure calls to establish connections to said applications through said applications program interfaces and gather said incoming communications information.

13. (Allowed) A communications system according to claim 10 wherein said view application presents said three-dimensional graphical representation in a window on said display, when said window is reduced, said view application presenting an icon representing said window on said display, said icon providing a visual indication of the total number of outstanding incoming communications of all types directed to said user.

14. (Allowed) A communications system according to claim 5 wherein said view application is configurable by a user to determine said selected applications and categories of incoming communications within said different types.

15. (Allowed) In a communications system including a network; a plurality of applications connected to said network, each of said applications handling a different type of communication and storing information concerning incoming communications directed to users of said communications system; and a plurality of computers connected to said network and receiving said incoming communications information from selected applications, each of said computers including a display and a processor, the improvement comprising:

a view application executed by each of said computers and requesting status information from selected applications concerning incoming communications handled thereby that are directed to a user of said communications system, said view application processing status information received from said selected applications and generating a three-dimensional representation thereof for presentation on said display, wherein said three-dimensional representation is a graphical representation including first, second and third generally orthogonal axes, said first axis denoting different types of incoming communications, said second axis denoting numbers of incoming communications and said third axis denoting

categories of incoming communications within said different types, objects representing different types and categories of incoming communications appearing on said graphical representation, wherein at least one of said incoming communications is categorized along said third axis based on whether the at least one of the incoming communications originated internally or externally.

16. (Allowed) In a communications system including separate applications to handle different types of communications and to receive incoming communications directed to users of said communication system, said applications being interconnected by a network, a method of presenting status information concerning incoming communications handled by separate applications that are directed to a specific user comprising the steps of:

    sending a request over said network to selected applications for status information relating to incoming communications directed to said specific user; processing status information received from said selected applications to generate a three-dimensional graphical representation of said status information including three generally orthogonal axes, a first axis denoting different types of incoming communications, a second axis denoting numbers of incoming communications and a third axis denoting categories of incoming communications within said different types, status information received from each application being separately depicted

in said three-dimensional graphical representation as objects representing different types and categories of incoming communications; and

presenting said three-dimensional graphical representation on a display, wherein at least one of said incoming communications is categorized along said third axis based on whether the at least one of the incoming communications originated internally or externally.

17. (Allowed) The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of adjusting the size of said objects to reflect the numbers of incoming communications.

18. (Allowed) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of subdividing said objects to categorize incoming communications into read and unread incoming communications.

19. (Allowed) The method of claim 18 wherein the different types of incoming communications include two or more of e-mail messages, voice-mail messages, facsimile messages and Internet messages.

20.-27 (Cancelled)

28. (Allowed) A communications system comprising:  
a network;

a plurality of applications connected to said network, each of said applications handling a different type of communication and storing information concerning incoming communications directed to users of said communications system; and

at least one computer connected to said network and receiving said incoming communications information from selected applications, said at least one computer including a display and a processor executing a view application, said view application processing said incoming communications information and generating a three-dimensional representation thereof for presentation on said display, wherein said three-dimensional representation is a graphical representation including first, second and third generally orthogonal axes, said first axis denoting different types of incoming communications, said different types of incoming communications including two or more of e-mail messages, voice-mail messages, facsimile messages, telephone calls and Internet messages, said second axis denoting numbers of incoming communications and said third axis denoting categories of incoming communications within said different types, objects representing different types and categories of incoming communications appearing on said graphical representation, wherein said e-mail messages are categorized along said third axis based on priority, wherein voice-mail and telephone calls are categorized along said third axis based on whether the voice-mails and telephone calls originated from

internal or external callers and wherein Internet messages are categorized along said third axis based on subject matter.

29.-30 (Cancelled)